

My name is Eric Krupski and I am writing to you regarding your reconsideration of the rules that require telephone companies to provide ISPs access to the public switched phone network. Removal of these requirements would be a grave mistake.

I and millions others like me depend on my local Internet Service Provider to give me access to Internet services and options not available from the large telephone carriers. These services are used by many as a source of recreation, information, participation in government (as this letter is proof of), and employment. If you choose to remove my ISP's access to the public phone network, it will no longer be able to provide me and others the level of service we have come to enjoy and expect for Internet access. Such action will simply force independent ISPs out of business and will do nothing but LIMIT consumer choice not expand it, hurting the livelihood of American neighborhoods and only benefiting large, wealthy corporations.

Furthermore, by removing fair interconnection requirements and reducing our choice, you will likely also allow consumer rates to rise. By having a current choice among several providers, I am not only allowed to find the best services to suit my needs, but also for best price. I and my family are subscribed to a local ISP that is both more sensitive to my particular needs and allows me to participate in my local community. By buying our services from a local ISP, we are investing money back into our local economy, and given the recent recession, our community needs it. Furthermore, by being a customer of a small, local company, I have a relationship with a company that has time for me, Eric Krupski in Dingman's Ferry, instead having to divide its attention among a million customers.

Reducing the number of ISPs in the marketplace will certainly have the obvious result of reduced competition. It will needlessly increase prices for consumers, only to allow national corporations to pool money that should be invested in local communities.

I sincerely hope that you think very carefully what you are considering. Consumers in every town across all of America are depending on you to make the right decision. The right decision is to maintain and grow the level of competition in the Internet marketplace. That goal is best met by protecting and nurturing competitive market conditions for the thousands of independent ISPs - not by handing even more market power to the monopolies who control our phone network.

Americans will always be able to choose a large ISP like AOL or Verizon. Do you want to deprive them the ability to choose a small, local ISP like Pike Online (which I am sure no one outside of Pike County, Pa has ever heard of)? Commissioners, I implore you to continue to protect the ISPs' access to the public telephone networks, thereby protecting the rights of millions of consumers like me.

Sincerely,

Eric Krupski